

The Invocations of the Muses: An Exploration into Greek Epistemology and the Divine Process of Poetry

The invocation of the muses served as a prologue to Ancient Grecian poetic texts foretelling the events to come, addressing the muses, and asking for the inspiration and skill to recite the great epic. This presentation seeks to investigate way in which the invocation of the muses justifies the divine process of art as well as the Ancient Grecian beliefs on the epistemological nature of the creative output. This presentation will be guided by an essay on the subject, which utilizes secondary sources from peer-reviewed scholarly articles, books, and journals to create context and give historical information on the invocation, the muses, and the background of argumentation and skepticism. Using excerpts from the invocation of greek epics *The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*, and *Theogony*, this presentation analyzes the way in which authors Homer and Hesiod support the idea that they are solely a vessel in the divine process of art, as well as create justifications of their own skill and that art is a product of the muses inspiration. These invocations also reveal the epistemological mindset in which Ancient Greek artists approach on the creative output, suggesting that art is gained through shared knowledge rather than being a branch of knowledge that can be gained in numerous ways, as well as the fact that religion is the only source of influence for all creative work. By investigating these aspects of the Ancient Greek poetic literature, a better understanding of the overall creative mindset of an ancient civilization is better understood, and creates a greater understanding for the purpose behind the way in which the Ancient Greeks constructed great epics that have successfully lasted for centuries.